



Edition readers get more | Subscribers can find bonus content at idahostatesman.com/edition.



Idaho Statesman

Supreme Court limits gun ownership ban for marijuana users

BY JOHN KRUZEL
Reuters

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of a marijuana user on Thursday by limiting the application of a federal law that bars drug users from owning guns, finding that certain prosecutions

under the measure intrude on the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment right to "keep and bear arms."

The justices, in a 9-0 ruling, upheld a lower court's decision to dismiss an illegal gun possession charge brought under the law at issue against Ali Hemani, an American-Pakistani dual citizen and resident of Texas

who told authorities he was a regular marijuana user.

Conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch, who authored the ruling, said the government had not "carried its conceded burden of showing its prosecution of Mr. Hemani complies with the Second Amendment."

SEE SUPREME COURT, 5A



JEEHAH MOON Reuters

Pistols are displayed during the National Rifle Association annual meeting in Atlanta on April 25, 2025. The Supreme Court on Thursday sided with a marijuana user who challenged a federal ban on drug users owning firearms.



SARAH A. MILLER smiller@idahostatesman.com

Allen Hodges, CEO and president of the Idaho Trucking Association, is concerned about a new law passed in Idaho that will go into effect July 1 that will get rid of the differential speed limits for trucks on the freeway.

Truckers voice safety concerns over new speed law

BY ROSE EVANS
revans@idahostatesman.com

In late February, Rep. Doug Pickett, R-Oakley, told his colleagues at the Idaho Statehouse about a proposed legislative fix to what he described as a fatal problem on the state's major highways: differential speeds.

The bill he sponsored sought to eliminate Idaho's bifurcated — or split — speed limits, which for over a decade have allowed

cars to whiz along some rural stretches of interstate at 80 miles per hour, capping heavy trucks at 70 miles per hour. Pickett argued that a uniform speed limit would improve traffic flow and reduce the potential for crashes on the Interstate, even if it meant opening the door for large commercial trucks to legally do 80.

"What this addresses is the fact that inconsistent road conditions are the biggest dangers on the highway, not speed it-

self," Pickett said in a House Transportation Committee hearing on Feb. 26.

"Speed doesn't kill," he said. "Differential speed kills."

But some opponents of the legislation, which starting July 1 will remove lower speed limits for trucks weighing more than 26,000 pounds, are raising safety concerns of their own. Some truck drivers and operators worry the new law could make their jobs more dangerous — and question whether it will

achieve what lawmakers intended.

On Wednesday, the Idaho Transportation Department board authorized the uniform 80 mph limit in a tight vote that reflected similar frustrations. In the Treasure Valley, the new limit will affect Interstate 84 west of Caldwell and east of Boise. Further east, it'll also affect sections of Interstate 86 and Interstate 15.

SEE TRUCKERS, 4A

Caldwell accused of hiding police chief investigation

BY ALEX BRIZEE
abrizee@idahostatesman.com

With the settlement of a \$1.5 million lawsuit against Caldwell Police Chief Rex Ingram finalized, attorneys for the former police officer who brought claims of sexual harassment are asking for the outside investigation into those allegations to be publicized.

For 18 months, Allison Butler endured "harassment, discrimination and possessive punishment" from Ingram, court filings published this month alleged. When it was clear that the chief wouldn't relent, her attorneys wrote, she complained to then-Caldwell Mayor Jarom Wagoner — someone "she trusted to hold the chief accountable."

Instead, the city, including Wagoner, went "out of their way to hide the findings from the investigation," wrote one of Butler's attorneys, Erika Birch. The city and the mayor misrepresented the investigation's findings and misled the public — including their own employees — into believing the probe didn't support the accusations against the police chief, Butler's attorneys asserted.

Ingram, who took over the department's top job in 2022, told the Idaho Statesman last month that he strongly denies any wrongdoing, adding that the settlement included no

SEE CALDWELL, 4A

Parents file \$10M claim over Boise Potato Drop blast

BY CAROLYN KOMATSOULIS
ckomatsoulis@idahostatesman.com

The parents of the young girl injured when a fireball shattered glass on a building downtown during the New Year's Eve Potato Drop festivities has filed a tort claim against the city of

Boise, a possible precursor to a lawsuit.

The parents, Richard and Daryl Ratto, said in their June 9 claim that the city knew that the organizers wouldn't submit adequate information and would "fail to abide by the planning documents." The city, the two alleged, "allowed the event

to continue despite clear violations." The organizers did not return a request for comment on Thursday.

The claim was sent to several city entities. The claimants are asking for \$10 million against each respondent and said their damages include medical care, psychological and counseling

care and pain, suffering and mental anguish.

"Publicly available records concerning meetings and permitting of previous events ... show that since at least 2018, respondents have had numerous concerns with the event planning and execution," the claim said. "Including numerous instances of the setup of the event and resources not following the actual planning documents that were submitted to obtain the special events permit."

Tort claims are civil claims made against a state or local government for a wrongful or

negligent act. Under Idaho law, a tort claim must be filed with that government to allow it an opportunity to respond before being sued. Not everyone follows up unanswered claims by suing.

A spokesperson for the city, Maria Ortega, said in an email Thursday that the city is "not able to comment on pending or ongoing claims."

The Idaho Potato Drop has drawn attention for its unique alternative to the glitzy New York City ball that drops at

SEE PARENTS, 2A



We're dedicated to delivering the journalism you rely on. Discover the stories that matter to you inside. Subscribers, explore more stories and features like puzzles and games at idahostatesman.com/edition.

FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE QUESTIONS, CALL US AT: 208-377-6370

OR REACH US ONLINE AT: idahostatesman.com/customer-service



0 40901 00907 8